PROVIDING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES WITH BIG IMPACT

he City of Bloomington envisions a more economically, fiscally, environmentally and socially sustainable community. One way the City will achieve this goal is by continuing to deliver quality, affordable services that meet the ever-changing needs of the community.

These examples show how the City continues to connect to the community

by providing innovative and sustainable services. For more information, visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us and type the keywords found at the end of each article into the search box.

STREAMLINING SERVICES

SAVING YOU TIME BY GOING ONLINE

Parks and Recreation began offering a more sustainable and convenient way of doing business in 2010.

In addition to being able to submit resumes and complete job applications online, users are able to apply for a variety of volunteer opportunities and, once assigned a job, manage their own schedules. The system was initially used for scheduling volunteers to work at the outdoor ice rinks for the winter season. More than 30 volunteer rink attendants were able to view job openings and select their own shifts and rink locations.

In 2011, the program will be used to store volunteer records and schedules for

a database of more than 200 Parks and Recreation volunteers.

"The online systems have proven to be real time-savers and our customers and staff love them," Parks and Recreation Assistant Manager Greg Boatman said.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: ONLINE REGISTRATION.

2010 IN PARKS AND RECREATION

- A total of 2,100 people signed up for programs and events through Online Program Registration.
- More than 200 volunteers used the Volunteer Central database.
- Volunteerism was up 63 percent.



Bringing the community together

FARMERS MARKET TAKES CITY BACK TO ITS AGRICULTURAL ROOTS

The Bloomington Farmers Market is a weekly gathering where farmers, growers and producers sell their own products directly to the public, allowing consumers to have a relationship with the producer of items they purchase. The market emphasizes quality, freshness and, most of all, community. Bringing people together and supporting local farmers takes us back to the days when Bloomington was a rural community.

"At the market you will find a

great variety of fresh locally grown produce, meat, eggs, cheese, honey, maple syrup and more," said Farmers Market Coordinator Keri Lahl.

In addition to the usual market fare, the 2010 Farmers Market

2010 AT THE FARMERS MARKET

- Market was held 21 Saturdays.
- A total of more than 42,000 people attended, averaging 2,000 per week.

introduced several new sustainable initiatives. In July and August the Farmers Market teamed up with Bloomington Public Health to offer a bike valet. Visitors who rode their bikes to the market received a coupon for \$2 off any item.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: FARMERS MARKET.



FORMING HEALTHY HABITS

PUBLIC HEALTH BRINGS WELLNESS PROGRAMS TO COMMUNITIES

Bloomington Public Health is the lead agency for the Statewide
Health Improvement Program (SHIP) in Bloomington, Edina and Richfield.
Bloomington initiated a three-city collaboration with Richfield and Edina to enhance the health and wellness of these communities.



"In 2010, the City of Bloomington created a vision for a healthier city.

The aim was to engage the community in making lasting changes to support healthy lifestyles," said SHIP Community Liaison Robyn Wiesman.

Bloomington is working with neighboring communities, schools and healthcare providers to reduce the risk for diabetes, heart disease, stroke and cancer. The program targets the top three preventable causes of these diseases: physical inactivity, poor nutrition and tobacco use. Bloomington has already seen positive changes by:

• Implementing active recess and after-school programs at Oak Grove,

2010 IN PUBLIC HEALTH

- Added four miles of safe bike lanes.
- Installed 19 bike racks around city.

Westwood, Indian Mounds and Ridgeview elementary schools.

- Adding vegetable gardens at Poplar Bridge elementary and Oak Grove middle schools.
- Installing a community garden at Harrison Park and expanding plots at Smith Park.
- Improving physical activity and nutrition programs at 23 child-care centers and preschools.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: SHIP.



Collaboration

MAKING BIG IMPROVEMENTS

ELECTRICITY REPLACES GAS TO POWER EQUIPMENT

Bloomington Ice Garden (BIG) was the recipient of the 2011 James Padgett Award, an award given yearly to the Minnesota ice arena that distinguishes itself as a leader, innovator and contributor to the ice arena industry.

BIG was chosen to receive this honor for its numerous efforts to be more sustainable and energy efficient, while continuously looking for ways to better accommodate and promote the hockey and figure skating communities.

In 2010, Bloomington Ice Garden (BIG) replaced three gas-powered iceedging machines with more energyefficient and cleaner electric ice edgers. This completed a move started in the late 1990s to go completely electric.

Electric ice edgers and zambonis are much more environmentally friendly than their gas or propane counterparts.

The electric-powered equipment doesn't produce harmful emissions, which means cleaner air in the ice garden.

2010 AT BIG

• Purchased three new electric ice grooming machines estimated to save \$10,000 a year in energy costs.

"The electric machines will not only maintain air quality at BIG, they'll save the City money because we won't need to ventilate the building as much," said BIG Manager Andy Baltgalvis.

Baltgalvis estimates the City will save \$10,000 a year in energy costs using the electric models.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: BIG.





The Bloomington
Volunteer Fire Department
was established with 25
members.



The Bloomington
Police Department was
established.



The dedication ceremony for I-35W was held on April 17 at the 86th Street intersection with I-35W.